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MANAGEMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

U. S. Department of Agriculture

A summary of significant events of
interest to USDA management

Issue #71
October 5, 1977

SPECIAL EDITION ON USDA REORGANIZATION

I. The Seven Principal Reorganization Initiatives

The Secretary today announced a package of reorganization initiatives to realign units of the Department according to major function. The reorganizations will provide opportunities for better management by focusing responsibility for similar functions in a smaller number of agencies and administrators, and by reducing the number of administrative officials reporting to the Secretary, the Assistant Secretaries and Directors.

The seven principal reorganization initiatives are:

(1) Establishment a new Food and Agriculture Science and Education Administration, headed by a Level V Director of Science and Education. The Food and Agriculture Science and Education Administration (FASEA) is designed to carry out the Congressional mandate under Title XIV of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 to "increase cooperation and coordination in the performance of agricultural research by Federal departments and agencies, the States, State agricultural experiment stations, colleges and universities, and user groups."

This new agency will be established with two major subunits. One, the Agricultural Research Service, will be responsible for the Federal research activities currently handled by the present Agricultural Research Service (ARS). The other, the Cooperative Science and Education Service (CSES), will assume the present activities of the Cooperative State Research Service, Extension Service, and National Agricultural Library. FASEA will assume the primary responsibility for food and agricultural research and extension coordination under Title XIV of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977. A planning staff (the Research, Education and Teaching Staff) will report to the Director of Science and Education. This unit will also provide staff support for the Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Sciences and the National Agricultural Research and Extension Users Advisory Board, which are authorized by Title XIV of the 1977 Act. In addition, FASEA will provide administrative support services to the subunits, the ARS and CSES.

The Assistant Secretary for Conservation, Research and Education will continue to oversee all research and extension activities brought under FASEA. The ability of the Assistant Secretary to coordinate research and extension activities within the Department of Agriculture and to fulfill the responsibilities of the USDA as the lead agency for food and agricultural sciences should be enhanced by this reorganization. The

Assistant Secretary will now be able to provide policy direction to a single person responsible for research and extension within USDA, the Director of Science and Education.

(2) Place the functions of the Packers and Stockyards Administration in the Agricultural Marketing Service. The primary purpose of the Packers and Stockyards Administration is to promote the effectiveness and equity of the agricultural marketing system, which is also the dominant purpose of the Agricultural Marketing Service. The merger of these two agencies should strengthen the Department's overall effort to improve market outlets for the Nation's farmers and ranchers.

(3) Combine the functions of the Economic Research Service, Statistical Reporting Service, Farmer Cooperative Service and the Economic Management Support Center into a single agency--the Economic Research and Statistics Service (ERSS). This new arrangement will reduce the number of persons reporting to the Director of Economics, Policy Analysis and Budget and therefore reduce his day-to-day administrative burden. In view of the increased policy analysis and budgeting responsibilities transferred to him earlier this year, the Director of Economics, Policy Analysis and Budget can usefully devote more time to those responsibilities.

The reorganization will provide administrative support services directly within the ERSS, rather than from the free-standing Economic Management Support Center, and should result in more timely provision of such services.

(4) Establish a Farm and Rural Development Administration, composed of the present functions of the Farmers Home Administration and the Rural Development Service. Legislation will be proposed to change the name of the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) to the Farm and Rural Development Administration (FRDA). The new name will more accurately reflect the overall mission of FRDA. In the meantime, the functions of the Rural Development Service will be placed in the FmHA, combined with certain policy analysis and planning activities already in FmHA, becoming the Program, Policy Analysis and Evaluation Staff reporting directly to the Administrator.

The change of the Rural Development Service into a high-level policy planning and development unit within FRDA will mesh those policy support functions with the broad range of rural and farm programs administered by FRDA. The Program, Policy Analysis and Evaluation Staff will continue to provide staff support for the lead agency role of the Department of Agriculture under the Rural Development Act of 1972.

(5) Consolidate the functions of the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, the Office of Communication, and the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs into a single Office of Governmental and Public Affairs. The units involved here share responsibility for maintaining the flow of information and providing liaison between the Department of Agriculture and the Congress, mass communications media, State and local governments, and the public at large.

It is vital that reliable, useful information on farm programs, supply and demand estimates, and other facts on the Department's activities be communicated to farmers, agribusiness firms, and other users on a timely basis. It is equally important that such information is communicated clearly and accurately to the urban press, other communications media serving urban areas, and to urban people and consumers generally.

By bringing the Department's public information functions together under a single Director, this reorganization will provide the basis for eliminating waste and duplication, and for improved information services to the public.

(6) Merge the Office of Audit and Office of Investigation into a single Office of the Inspector General. This merger is intended to assure maximum coordination of the related audit and investigative activities of the Department.

(7) Combine three Department-wide administrative support offices (Office of Automated Data Systems, Office of Operations, and Office of Finance) into a new Office of Operations and Finance. This will bring together related administrative service functions and provide the potential for reduced overhead in management.

With the exception of the name change for the Farmers Home Administration, which requires new legislation, these reorganization initiatives are effective immediately. The target date for full implementation of the new organization is January 1, 1978.

II. Summary Table and Chart

This reorganization will reduce the number of agencies and offices in the Department by 14. The agencies and offices affected operate some 114 programs with 23,527 employees and a combined Fiscal Year 1978 budget of \$2.5 billion.

The table on the following page summarizes the reorganization. Following this table are four charts:

- Present organization structure
- Results of reorganization actions
- Refinements in the Secretary's Office
- New structure for Departmental Administration

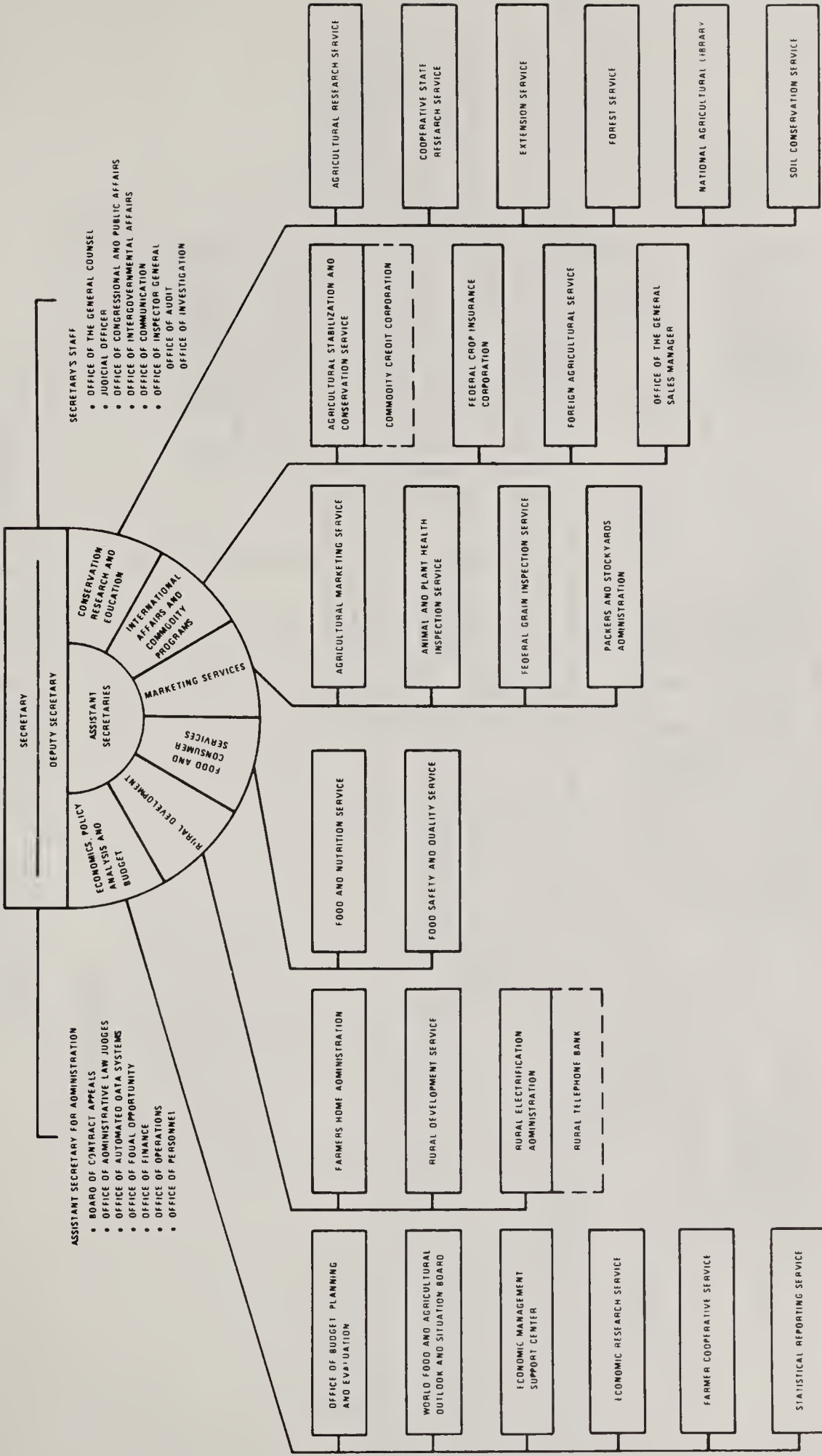
SUMMARY OF USDA REORGANIZATION

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>REVISED</u>	<u>NUMBER OF PROGRAMS</u>	<u>FY 1978 BUDGET (THOUSANDS)</u>	<u>PFT EMPLOYEES JUNE 30, 1977</u>
Agricultural Research Service	Food and Agriculture Science and Education Administration	36	\$ 740,830	8,894
Cooperative State Research Service				
Extension Service				
National Agricultural Library				
Agricultural Marketing Service	Agricultural Marketing Service	7	44,217	2,333
Packers and Stockyards Administration				
Economic Management Support Center	Economic Research and Statistics Service	16	73,810	2,340
Economic Research Service				
Farmer Cooperative Service				
Statistical Reporting Service				
Farmers Home Administration	Farm and Rural Development Administration	41	1,615,680	7,153
Rural Development Service				
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs	Office of Governmental and Public Affairs	5	5,391	200
Office of Communication				
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs				
Office of the Inspector General	Office of the Inspector General	2	28,412	906
Office of Audit				
Office of Investigation				
Office of Automated Data Systems	Office of Operations and Finance	7	2,754	1,701
Office of Operations				
Office of Finance				
	TOTALS	<u>114</u>	<u>\$2,511,094</u>	<u>23,527</u>

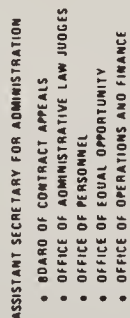
PRESENT ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

IMMEDIATE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

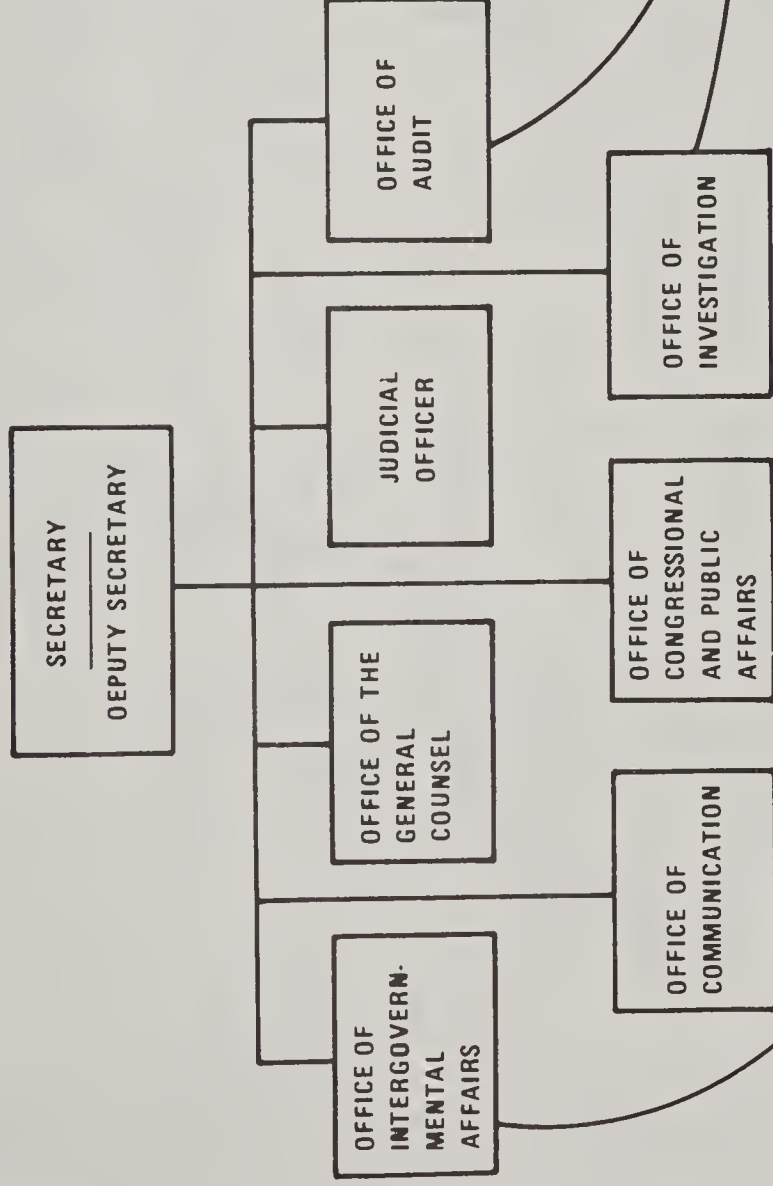


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
IMMEDIATE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

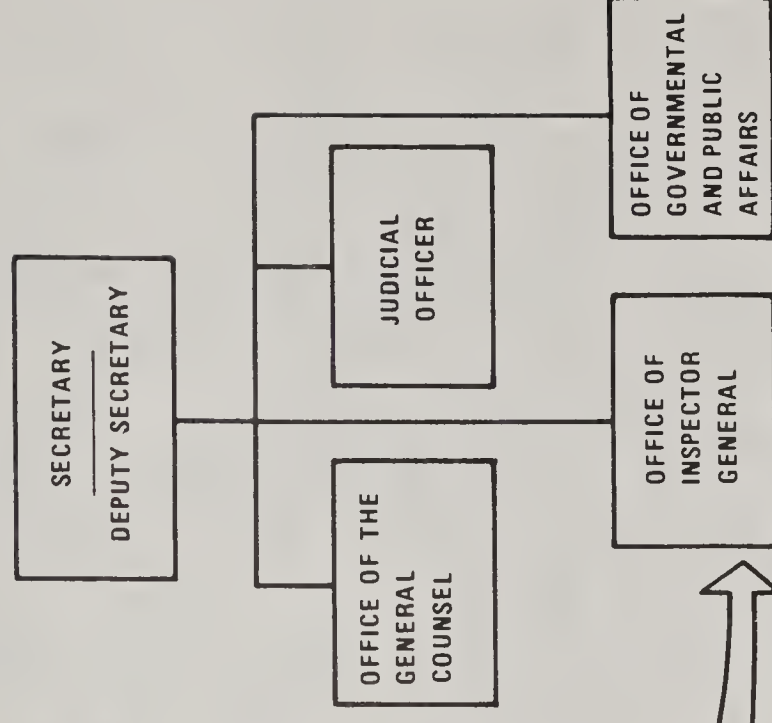


REFINEMENTS IN THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

PRESENT

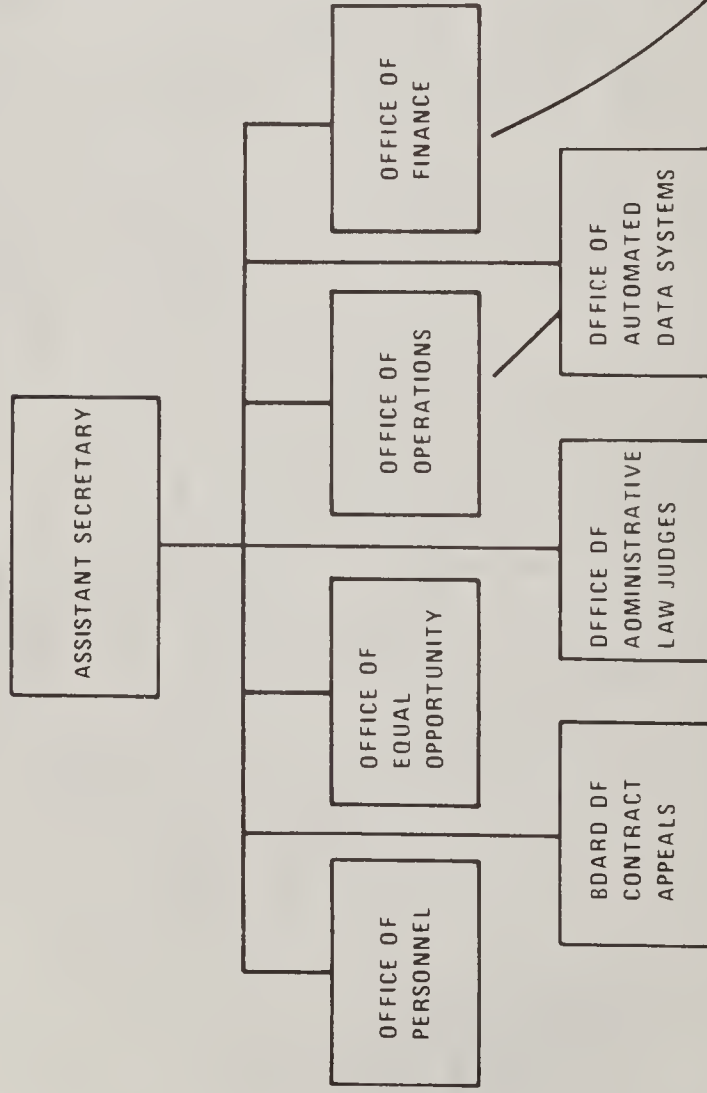


REVISED



NEW STRUCTURE FOR DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT



REVISED

